(b) 64 delegates participated in the Symposium. Their names are given in Annexure-I. [*See* Appendix CXCI, Annexure No. 80].

(c) and (d) Discussion centered around taking a review of current knowledge of climate in relation to food security and the following recommendations were made:—

(1) Close interaction between meteorologists, agricultural scientists and farmers in a continuous "whether watch starting at the beginning of the growing season before seeds are sown, to monitor daily rainfall, temperature and other meteorological conditions.

In this way improved long te forecasts could be made and steps could be taken to mitigate drought effects.

(2) Maintenance of a "seed bank" for drought-prone aras, both to allow replanting if the rains stop after the first sewing, and to make it feasible to substitute drought resistant crops.

(3) Development of ecologically-sustainable farming systems to increase production from existing lands and decrease pressures on marginal lands.

(4) A more general recommendation was that plant breeding research should be directed towards development of climate adapted crops, particularly varieties adapted to water and temperature stress.

(5) In semi arid regions planning and design of water-resources development should take account of a probably serious dinimution of stream runoff and groundwater recharge as atmospheric temperatures increase in the future. More adequate measures for control of river floods should be investigated and planned. Protective structures and other measures to save lives and alleviate damage from typhoons and storm surges will become more urgent in the future.

(6) Cooperation between meteorologists, hydrologists, and agricultural scientists should be greatly strengthened.

Report of the study group on taxation

1928. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seven member study group headed by Dr. Chelliah on taxation has since submitted its report to Government, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the recommendations have since been considered by the Government of India; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) A Study Group on Taxation of Expenditure headed by Dr. Raja J. Chelliah has submitted its Interim Report to the Government on 19-12-1986. The Study Group is yet to submit its final report. In the Interim Report, the Study Group has concluded that while restructuring direct tax system on the basis of expenditure tax principle would be advantageous, introduction of expenditure tax proper would create insurmountable administrative problems and cause great hardship to the average taxpayer. The Study Group has recommended that the income tax structure be retained and the expenditure tax principle may be introduced therein to the extent possible, subject to the requirements of revenue.

As a result of the examination of the recommendations made in the Interim Report of the Study Group, the

Government proposes to frame a new Scheme, to be called the National Savings Scheme, and to provide tax incentives for net savings made under the said Scheme. The Government's proposal in this regard is sought to be implemented through Clauses 34 and 78 of the Finance Bill, 1987 introduced in Lok Sabho on the 28th February, 1987.

Penalty imposed on M/s. Bata India Ltd.

1929. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than Rs 12 lakhs as penalty were imposed on M/s .Bata India Limited for violation of FERA during the year 1986; and

(b) if so, whether the penalty has since been realised from the company; if not the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) A total penalty of Rs. 11,23,000 has been imposed on M/s. Bata India Ltd. and its two executives for violation of the provisions of F.E.R. Act. The entire amount of penalty has been realised from the company and its two executives.

Andhra Pradesh Electronic Development Corporation (APEL) Project

1930. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is unusual delay in clearing Andhra Pradesh Electronics Development Corporation (APEL) Project by the Centre, as has been reported in the Newstime of 8th February, 1987; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the processing of the case has taken somewhat longer time because of the following reasons:

(i) The proposal involves majority foreign equity participation by M/s. Philips, Holland;

(ii) The payment terms as well as the investment in imported capital goods proposed were higher than in the other proposals and therefore needed clarifications from the colaborator;

(iii) The longer time taken by M/s. APEDC in furnishing the relevant information.

Raid on 24 offices of company

1931. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item published in the Indian Express dated 25th November, 1986, New Delhi edition regarding raids on 24 offices of a company conducted by Government from Wednesday, the 19th November, 1986 for about 3 days; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the raids including the name of the company, the documents seized and the action taken by Government thereon so far including the arrest of any person or persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Searches have been conducted in